

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 013821 TOSEC 010003

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:TH  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.  
S/S:RKUCHEL

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE  
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 013821 TOSEC 010003

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE, SY, EG

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR  
EILTS ON DISCUSSING LEBANESE SITUATION WITH FAHMY  
(S/S NO.7601241 )

FROM ATHERTON

1. IN ACCORD WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, FOLLOWING FOR YOUR  
APPROVAL IS PROPOSED MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR EILTS  
REQUESTING HIM TO DISCUSS WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
FAHMY THE LEBANESE SITUATION:

2. BEGIN TEXT.

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, LE, SY, EG  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF LEBANESE SITUATION WITH FAHMY  
TO: CAIRO IMMEDIATE; SECRET/NODIS

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

REF: CAIRO 678

3. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY AND EXPLAIN THAT I HAD ASKED YOU TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:  
I SHARE HIS CONCERN AS VOICED TO YOU ON THE 19TH (REFTEL) OVER THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, WHICH APPEARS TO BE ENTERING A DANGEROUS PHASE, WITH INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF PALESTINIAN MILITIA REENFORCED FROM SYRIA AND OF LEBANESE MILITARY.

THE FIGHTING OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE LEBANESE SITUATION, FAR FROM MOVING TOWARD SOLUTION, IS POSING A PROGRESSIVELY GREATER THREAT TO PEACE IN THE AREA. THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE RECENT FIGHTING, WHICH HAS FORCED A TOTAL HALT TO MEDIATION AND COMPROMISE EFFORTS, SEEM TO INDICATE THAT GROUPS ON BOTH SIDES ARE FURTHER HARDENING THEIR POSITIONS.

WE ARE DISTURBED BY SIGNS THAT SENTIMENT FOR PARTITION AMONG AT LEAST THE MILITANT CHRISTIANS IS GROWING AND THAT THEIR MILITARY MOVES MAY BE AIMED AT SPEEDING UP DE FACTO PARTITION. EQUALLY DISTURBING IS THE EVIDENCE THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE PUT THEIR PRESTIGE AND MILITARY CREDIBILITY ON THE LINE PUBLICLY AND THAT THE MODERATE LEADERS AMONG THEM MAY BE HAVING TROUBLE IN CONTROLLING THOSE FOLLOWERS OF THEIRS WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE PLO PROJECTING A MODERATE IMAGE TO THE WORLD.

KARAME'S RESIGNATION IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE DESPAIR WHICH THE MODERATES SENSE IN TRYING TO WREST CONTROL OF THE SITUATION FROM THE MILITANTS AND EXTREMISTS. WE HAVE TRIED THROUGH GUIDANCE TO OUR PRESS SPOKESMEN (SEPTEL) AND IN PRIVATE MESSAGE TO ENCOURAGE KARAME TO REMAIN IN OFFICE AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, SINCE WE SEE NO OTHER MUSLIM CANDIDATE FOR THE PRIMIN'S JOB WITH HIS AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE, AND EXPERIENCE IN PATCHING UP PROBLEMS.

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AS FAHMY KNOWS, THIS TREND CARRIES WITH IT SERIOUS RISKS OF DRAWING IN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, WITH THE ATTENDANT DANGERS THAT WAR WOULD ENSUE AND THREATEN THE PROGRESS THAT WE TOGETHER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE SINCE 1973.

WE ARE IN TOUCH AGAIN TODAY WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND SYRIA CONCERNING THE DANGERS AND TO WARN AGAINST INTERVENTION,

IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THINGS FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND.  
A FUNDAMENTAL REVERSAL OF THE CURRENT TREND IS NEEDED  
WHICH WOULD START MOVEMENT TOWARD COMPROMISE AND  
CONCILIATION.

WE APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PACIFICATION

AND MODERATION WHICH EGYPT HAS TAKEN, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY  
RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT SADAT, FAHMY HIMSELF,  
AND OTHER EGYPTIAN SPOKESMEN. WE JOIN EGYPT IN ITS  
OPPOSITION TO UNILATERAL ARAB OR NON-ARAB INTERFERENCE  
IN LEBANON, AND OUR RECENT STATEMENTS ON THAT POINT  
HAVE PARALLELED EGYPT'S.

WE WOULD VALUE FAHMY'S VIEWS ON HOW HE SEES THE  
SITUATION DEVELOPING, AND ON WHAT MORE HE BELIEVES  
CAN BE DONE.

4. END TEXT.

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE THE ABOVE MESSAGE.

APPROVE        DISAPPROVE

6. DRAFTED: NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN

APPROVED: NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

CLEARED: S/S:RKUCHEL(SUBS) SISCO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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